

## Sullivan County NH

**Type of Meeting:** Board of Commissioners Public Hearing & Regular Public Business Meeting Minutes

**Date | Time:** Tue – November 15, 2005; 1 PM

**Place:** Sullivan County Unity Complex, Nursing Home, Recreation Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**ATTENDEES:** Commissioners Donald S. Clarke – *Chair*, Ben Nelson – *Vice Chair* and Ethel Jarvis – *Clerk*; Ed Gil de Rubio – *County Manager*; Courtney Marshall – *Nursing Home Administrator*; Patti Koscielniak – *RN/Nursing Home External Care Coordinator*; Heidi Smith – *Director of Nursing* (arrived later); Scott Hagar – *DOC Peter Farrand – Human Resource Director* (arrived later); Sharon Johnson-Callum (*minute taker*).

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** State County Delegates Charlotte Houde-Quimby and Larry Converse, Robert De Cook – Claremont resident, Lorraine Potvin – daughter of resident, various other public attendees and county employees.

**1 PM** The meeting was opened by Commissioner Clarke as Chair. Patti Koscielniak led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING PURPOSE** – Mr. Gil de Rubio thanked all for attending. He indicated, per recommendations from the Nursing Home Marketing Committee, the County was looking at the possibility of changing the nursing home name; to keep “Sullivan County”, but to attach a handle that signifies the other services the facility offers. He noted rumors were circulating that the County was attempting to tie the name to a private entity, and the rumors were false. He noted the County was making great strides in community to have recognition on what the facility offers and feedback indicates the facility needs to let it be known they offer rehabilitation and acute care services. Mr. Gil de Rubio spoke briefly about a letter (dated Nov 7, 2005) the Commissioners received from the Congress of Claremont Senior Citizens to discourage any name change to tie it to a private owned nursing facility. Mr Gil de Rubio is unsure how they received such information, but it was not true. He noted “this is a county nursing home, we are offering different products, have a private enterprise helping with just the management. Not sure who is spreading rumors but all should know they could call him, any of the County Commissioners and Mr. Courtney Marshall – Nursing Home Administrator”. Mr. Gil de Rubio requested Ms. Patti Koscielniak, External Care Coordinator, to address the proposed name change issue.

Ms. Koscielniak, a Registered Nurse and the Sullivan County Nursing Home External Care Coordinator, explained her duties. When she comes into contact with the case managers/discharge planners at Dartmouth, Mt. Ascutney and Valley Regional - discharge planners note these are facilities available to you, and as soon as they say Sullivan County, the response is “Oh no. I don’t want a nursing home.” The perception is that you go to nursing home for life - even when it’s noted we offer rehab and acute. Accordingly she made the name change suggestion. She noted they are absolutely a county nursing home but fully supports

adding rehab in the beginning of the name, in order to focus on rehab. She discussed how people shorten names and would suggest adding it to the beginning, which would draw attention to the fact the facility is focused on getting people well and to send home through rehab.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING OPENED FOR COMMENTS BY CHAIR**

Mr. Robert De Cook, a Claremont resident, spoke. Mr. Cook indicated he held the facility in high regards, that his father spent his last years at the facility and his brother currently resided here. He indicated, though neither case fit a rehabilitation scenario, he was a strong supporter of the Sullivan county nursing home and rehabilitation center. He feels the biggest portion is nursing care and should be recognized first in the name. He noted other's he spoke to, prior to coming here today, say the same.

Rep. Larry Converse spoke, stating he was from Claremont. He indicated on Election Day he stood at the election polls, met with at least 200 people, of which he attained 161 signatures on a petition rejecting any type of name change. The petition read: *"We, the undersigned, object to changing the name of the Sullivan County Nursing Home located in Unity, New Hampshire"*. (A copy of petition was provided to Board of Commissioners) He noted 30-35 people at the poles indicated *"who cares you are going to do what you are going to do anyways."* He noted, "If I would have thought it fast enough, I would have had got someone to go to the other two poles. I'm hoping this will do. If it doesn't we'll go back out on the street and get more names. Their main concern is that this is a nursing home, and if you wanted to add anything on the end of it you could, but just leave Sullivan County Nursing Home."

- Commissioner Clarke asked what the question was that was put to the people. Converse noted, "That was the question on the petition".
- Mr. De Cook wanted it clarified, for public sake, that his name, as well as his wife and neighbors appears on the petition, but that the question Rep. Converse presented was not how he was framing it now. Mr. De Cook received the impression there was going to be a full name change. Then he saw the newspaper article, realized it was "what was up" and feels it makes sense to include "rehab".
- The County Manager interjected other people who attended the Claremont of Congress meeting approached him noting they had been told at their meeting the Genesis name was going to be attached to a new name.
- Rep. Converse said he made it very clear the Genesis name was not going to appear on anything.

Lorraine Potvin spoke, noting her parent was a Sullivan County Nursing Home resident. She noted she is for a name change. She indicated she was worried at first about a name change, as she wanted it to show Sullivan County. She indicated if adding "rehab" before or after "Sullivan County" is what it would take to keep it financially solvent, and for that reason I like it if it's "rehab, nursing home or nursing care" that it would be a great idea.

Commissioner Clarke asked if there were any other comments from anyone. There were none.

#### **1:12 PUBLIC PORTION OFFICIALLY CLOSED BY CHAIR**

It was asked when the second hearing was to be held?

- **Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm Sullivan County Complex in Newport 14 Main**

**Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Jury Assembly Room.** Meeting held in the evening to accommodate those unable to attend today's afternoon meeting. The meeting would be the same format as today.

Commissioner Clarke noted no final decision would be made until after the second public hearing.

Commissioner Nelson noted their main goal was to add "rehab" to the name. He asked if anyone had a preference to the name order?

- Mr. De Cook indicated his preference was to show "nursing home" prior to "rehab."
- Heidi Smith, Director of Nursing, suggested the name focus on "health and rehab" as they are caring for people of different age groups, and this would illustrate a positive connotation.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 SHERIFFS OFFICE UPDATE**

The County Manager commended the Sheriff for being most efficient with the Homeland Security grant and how he has been the main key in organizing communities and optimizing federal monies, and with that said he noted there have been plenty of expenditures going through the county coffers and the Sheriff, periodically, informs the Commissioners on the grants.

The Sheriff pointed out that one of the Commissioners noticed a \$2,400 invoice go through accounting for ammunition. He commended the Commissioners for doing their duty by checking and questioning expenditures. He noted the \$2,400 ammunition was purchased for Special Operations Unit (SOU), which involves members from Charlestown, Claremont, Newport, Sunapee, Springfield, Washington and the Sheriff's Office. Some of the ammunition was used for a two-week training that involved five members of the SOU that attended the Swat I & II training. They used about 11,000 rounds with side arms and long arm weapons, during the training. As done over the years, they pool their resources to get a better cost.

He noted in 2003, \$20,000 in Homeland Security grant funds was used for the SOU. Last grant received was for \$27,000 in 2005 for the Homeland Security. Approximately \$114,000 total grants of four grants received. They've expended it all; except for last grant \$27,000, on equipment. NH State Homeland Security pre-approves the application and equipment to be purchased, with all funds used within the county. He pointed out the \$35,000 for Claremont recently mentioned in the media was part of the community collaboration. Claremont will use the Homeland Security Trailer more often; accordingly, they will be kicking in more for funds. The Sheriff, Chiefs Scott, Hoyt and Cahill meet periodically as a board to review their current status and what they need to do. They are one of 12 teams in NH recognized by the State of NH. They just took delivery on another trailer for SOU housing a lot of the equipment. The Sheriff received okay from the State to use some of the funds to letter the trailer; each step requires approval from the state and federal government.

Commissioner Clarke pointed out this was a good demonstration of what county government can do through pooling resources of small towns and still have the equipment close enough for all to use. He added, this is one example of the value of county government on a regional basis. Sheriff indicated he was grateful to the professionalism in the police departments he works with on these issues.

Rep. Converse asked how often the Sheriff's Office rotates ammunition?

- Sheriff noted they fire arms they carry once a year to rotate and use qualifying and duty ammunition.

#### STAFF

The Superintendent noted Officer "Joe" Brookens attended the 68<sup>th</sup> DOC Corrections Academy graduation. Mr. Brookens received honors from his peers for the professionalism and leadership demonstrated and graduated as Honor Graduate, at the top of his class. The County Manager and Superintendent awarded Officer Brookens with a special merit award at the graduation at the Nov 10<sup>th</sup> event in Boscawen NH.

#### OPERATIONS EQUIPMENT

The Superintendent distributed a package pertaining to taser guns and ran a brief PowerPoint presentation on how they operate and when they would be used. He spoke briefly of the taser training he and Corporal Gokey attended in Maine last week. DOC, along with the Sheriff's Office is proposing to purchase these tools. Mr. Hagar discussed their current policy when dealing with situations:

1. Use Officer presence –All are trained on how to use their presence to subdue situations.
2. OC Spray, aka "pepper spray" would be used if inmate refusing to be handcuffed, getting into a fist punching situation. It is at this point they would use the Taser, prior to the spray.
3. Lethal Force is the last step.

The Superintendent discussed storage of these tools and protocol on when they are used. Sheriff noted each NH State Police and one County Sheriff's organization carries the taser. When the tool is used properly, it protects officers, the offender and surrounding public. They would like to purchase the taser to be proactive in stopping a fatality that could have been avoidable. It was noted the affects of the taser lasts 5 minutes, while OC spray lasts 45 minutes and involves extreme irritation to the air passage way.

Rep. Houde-Quimby asked Mr. Hagar how many times they could have used the tool over the past three months. Mr. Hagar indicated none. He reminded them DOC Officers use verbal commands and presence to defuse situations and have actually used OC spray only once in last two years. He noted they would still train on OC spray and have it handy and the taser would be an additional tool. He pointed out, just the sight of the taser vs. a spray can subdue a situation that much more quickly. He explained the taser works best in a 3 to 15 foot range, but can shoot the probes up to 21 feet. The probes pierce the skin about 1/4 inch, but can be longer for colder weather when thicker winter jackets are worn. He indicated the probes thicken, making it hard for them to go deeper, and a laser sites the target with exactness. Superintendent Hagar would require 8 hours minimum of training a year for each officer, with training to include: documentation, safety tips, followed up by range proficiency.

Comm. Jarvis asked if the probes were long enough to hit the heart. Superintendent Hagar indicated no, that the heart is not affected. Mr. Hagar has more detailed material for those interested in reading further on the taser.

Superintendent Hagar handed out the proposed taser policy to the Commissioners.

Rep. Houde-Quimby asked what the cost would be? Mr. Hagar indicated each taser is approximately \$800. The Sheriff noted the final cost, which includes cartridges and training, would be about \$1,000. The County Manager noted the cost could be absorbed in this year's budget. The Sheriff would like to look into purchasing two this year and is looking for grants to assist, and working with other law enforcement agencies.

Comm. Clarke requested the taser policy to be placed on the Dec 6<sup>th</sup> agenda.

#### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.** - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Springfield VT Hartness House. RSVP's should be sent to Doug Roberts. Commissioner Clarke confirmed he would attend. The event is held to recognize the many volunteers at the DOC and to present the "Volunteer of the Year" award. Commissioner Jarvis requested a list of the volunteers from Superintendent Hagar.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 MEETING MINUTES

##### AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.A. NOV 1, 2005 PUBLIC SESSION

**2:18 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to approve the public meeting minutes from Nov 1, 2005. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion.** Discussion: Comm. Jarvis noted, on page 5, the word "ad" should be "add". She also noted on page 2 where it was written that Rep. Converse spoke, Comm. Jarvis thinks Rep. Converse meant that he had not been given "all reports". She requested no change to the latter, but to include the information in today's minutes. The minute taker will change the misspelled word and include Comm. Jarvis's comments. **A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.**

##### AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.B. AUG 16 EXECUTIVE SESSION – LITIGATION ISSUE MEETING MINUTES

The County Manager has not heard anything regarding closure and still needs to talk to County Attorney. Mr. Gil de Rubio recommended, regardless of outcome, to seal the minutes permanently - as it pertained to a personnel issue. He will have the County Attorney at the Dec 6<sup>th</sup> meeting for a follow up.

**2:19 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to seal the Aug 16, Executive Session Litigation Issue meeting minutes. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion.** Discussion: A conversation commenced on requesting the presence of the County Attorney to discuss the matter before they permanently seal the minutes. Commissioner Jarvis requested Commissioner Nelson to withdraw his motion. **Nelson withdrew his motion.**

**2:20 A motion was made again by Commissioner Nelson to permanently seal the minutes and place in personnel file. Commissioner Clarke seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. Commissioner Nelson and Clarke were in favor. Commissioner Jarvis apposed.**

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 CLAREMONT SAVINGS BANK ON LINE BANKING RESOLUTION

It was noted the County Treasurer requested the Board of Commissioners review and approve the

CSB On Line Banking form, which would provide authorization for Dodi Violette to view the General Ledger accounts on line per auditor's suggestion, a follow up step to a comment in the management letter.

- 2:25 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to authorize the Claremont Savings Bank On Line Banking form, to allow access by Dodi Violette to view on line. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.**

*The form was signed and dated during the meeting (Copy on file).*

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ANNUAL INSTALLMENT OF STATE GRANT – SEWER PROJECT**

It was noted this was the application for final sewer installment project grant. Commissioner Nelson read through the certification that is to be returned with the application to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

- 2:27 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to approve the Commissioner Chair to sign the application, and for the Board to sign the certification. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.**

*(See copy of below)*

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
NHDES  
Form 446-6  
Project No. C-405

**Application for Annual Installment of State Grant  
for Sewage Treatment Works  
Under RSA 486**

Request for Certification  
(request for annual installment of construction grant offered and accepted)

Location of Project: Unité, New Hampshire  
(City, Town, etc.)

Total grant accepted ..... \$ 371,129  
Prior annual installments received ..... \$ 296,840  
Annual installment this application ..... \$ 74,289

The Sullivan County, Board of Commissioners, 14 Main Street,  
(City, Town, etc.)  
Newport, New Hampshire 03773  
(Per Office)

(herein called the "Applicant") hereby makes Application to the State of New Hampshire (herein called the "State") for an annual installment of the State grant as indicated above for Project No. C-405.

The statements contained herein are certified by the undersigned representative of the Applicant to be true, correct and complete to the best of his knowledge and belief. He further certifies that he has been authorized to file this application by formal action of the governing body of the Applicant as is evidenced by the attached certified copy of authorization made by the Applicant's governing body. He further certifies that proper and efficient operation and maintenance of the Project have been provided since the prior application.

Nov 15, 2005 Dodi Violette Chairman  
(Date) (Signature of Representative) (Title of Representative)

Nov 15, 2005  
(Date)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that Donald S. Clarke of the Board of Commissioners, Sullivan County, is hereby authorized in act on behalf of the Sullivan County in negotiating for and accepting any and all State Aid payments in connection with sewage treatment facilities in said Sullivan County.

Donald S. Clarke  
Board of Commissioners, Chair  
Ronnie Nelson  
Board of Commissioners, Vice Chair  
John Jarvis  
Board of Commissioners, Clerk

(Seal)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 NURSING HOME REPORT - HANDED OUT COPIES TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE**  
**CENSUS**

Courtney Marshall, Nursing Home Administrator, reviewed the following documents (copies on file in Commissioners minute binder) distributed during the meeting:

- "Census As of: November 15, 2005": Total beds filled 142, with 111 of those Medicaid, 20 Private, 1 HCBC, 10 Medicare. Goal is to admit 4 per week and last week admitted 7. Marshall would like to see more Medicare, there high was Sep 17<sup>th</sup>, and it's stayed at a level 10 for past months. Budgeted figures were double checked by the Commissioners Office staff.
- "Month-end Aged Analysis For the Month of Oct 2005" discussed. Total due \$1,77,390.75. The County Manager, Nursing Home Administrator, Business Office Manager and Commissioners Office Account Clerk I are holding monthly meetings to review individual accounts and tackling the issues. A Genesis specialist is also reviewing. Their average is 51 days, while the standard is 39. Per County Manager, they are also soliciting advice from Graham and Graham accountants. Trying to streamline the Nursing Home Business Office and delegate receptionist duties out and to enhance communication between the Nursing Home Business Office and Commissioners Office. County Manager is excited about the current changes in progress and what will be taking place.
- "October 2005 Billing": \$676,297 billed, \$731.767 budgeted. The billed amount is up from last month.

**STAFFING**

Mr. Marshall noted staffing is in step with census. He indicated the Nurse Practitioner, Doris Barrett, begins work Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, which he noted is another addition to the emphasis on the quality of care. Doris will collaborate with Dr. Herfort, of Associates in Medicine, and the County can bill Medicare for her services using Physician Services so that the County does not pick up the full cost. Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated, though there have been improvements since the meeting they held with Dr. Herfort, there are still discrepancies with other physicians, but they seem to be turning the corner.

**NURSING HOME UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thu – Nov 24<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving dinner

Thu - Dec 15<sup>th</sup> - Charlestown Rotary annual dinner to be held at the Nursing Home.

Thu – Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Noon - Staff & Resident Holiday dinner

Sun – Dec 25<sup>th</sup> - Special holiday dinner.

**SIDE COMMENTS – FOOD SERVICE ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA**

Commissioner Jarvis asked if Dietary was still using the geri menu. Mr. Marshall confirmed it is used in a limited way. Ms. Jarvis pointed out she received a complaint about this as the geri menu is very high in carbohydrates, and she will have a dietician break it down.

Commissioner Jarvis indicated someone told her only white bread was being given out and wanted to make sure real wheat bread is available.

**SIDE COMMENT – SMOKING POLICY**

Commissioner Jarvis wanted all reminded that the smoking policy is effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Gil de Rubio confirmed he has mentioned this in his article in the upcoming "Chit Chat", coming out Friday, and, that the information disseminated with reminders Human Resources is there to help for those that want to quit. Mr. Farrand indicated they received a bill for the past quarter of approximately \$2,200 from Wal-Mart, which involves about 27-28 people purchasing the patch and/or gum.

#### GENERAL STAFFING

Farrand noted they have had 37 new highers and attrition of 2 since October. Mr. Marshall indicated the Employee Position report is the fullest he's seen it since coming on board. County Manager confirmed the report goes to the Commissioners and Delegates. Mr. Gil de Rubio commended Heidi Smith on the staffing and delegating the staffing to the nurse managers. He feels it's working well and they are only looking for one manager on Sterns I.

Commissioner Jarvis asked how many residents were on floor three? Ms. Smith indicated 41 – 42. It was noted the census discussed earlier reflected 41. Ms. Smith discussed the staffing on the floor and the "bath team" on Sterns II and III, as well as the restorative educational program beginning this week.

Commissioner Jarvis asked why the feeding hour was moved back from five? Mr. Marshall indicated they had received complaints from families and residents that trays were coming up too late, and receiving their last meal of the day at 7 pm. They reviewed the schedule and moved delivery back ½ hour. He noted during his rounds on Thursday, no complaints were received regarding delivery. Mr. Gil de Rubio recommended Commissioner Jarvis refer any person who has a complaint about the Nursing Home to the administrator first. Commissioner Clarke concurred, noting it would be more professional and would allow Mr. Marshall a chance to deal with the issue before bringing it up at a public Board meeting.

#### EMPLOYEE POSITION LISTING

Johnson-Callum (prompted by an inquiry from one of the Delegates) asked what the document was that Mr. Marshall referred to earlier in meeting regarding employee position listing, as they did not recall receiving it. Mr. Marshall gave minute taker a copy. The County Manager indicated he was under the impression the list was distributed to Commissioners and Delegates, or possibly, the Executive Finance Committee. Johnson-Callum will check with Ms. Bryk and make sure distributed accordingly.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 ARTICLE XIV - HOLIDAYS

Peter Farrand, Director of Human Resources, discussed the recent change to have Charge Nurses responsible to add anomalies to employees pay; and, with the current holiday pay situation the number of mistakes has increased. Mr. Farrand would like to standardize procedures, as the Charge Nurses would not know how long an employee has been with the County. Farrand discussed the current policy and the suggested changes. He noted the financial impact on the County is minimal. The County Manager noted it should help with efficiency of the payroll system. With the new system managers have direct input of tracking staffing and are in direct communication with the payroll department. It was noted the Holiday benefit is a good benefit to attract people to this facility. Currently, new employees receive straight time, but would now

receive holiday pay, if a holiday were worked.

Comm. Nelson suggested waiving probationary period for long-term employees that may switch to per diem, also. Mr. Gil de Rubio recommended they discuss that issue at another meeting. Comm. Nelson would like Mr. Marshall and Mr. Hagar to review with Nursing Home department heads protocol on disturbances at the jail. Mr. Marshall indicated this would be a great idea, and could do so at a regular Safety meeting. Mr. Gil de Rubio confirmed he would follow up on that.

**3:03 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to adopt the amended policy [Article XIV Holidays. Effective Nov 15, 2005]. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.**

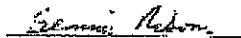
The Board of Commissioners signed the policy. (See copy below).

**Article XIV Holidays (Amendment Effective Nov 15, 2005)**

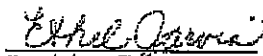
1. Sullivan County recognizes the following paid holidays:
  - A. Unity Complex- New Year's Day, Presidents' Day, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.
  - B. Newport Complex- observes the same holidays as the New Hampshire Supreme Court.
2. In order to qualify for a paid holiday, an employee must have been on the payroll for ninety days (90) and have worked the last scheduled day before the holiday and the first scheduled day after the holiday regardless of working the holiday. For those employees that have been on the payroll less than ninety days (90) they must work on the holiday as scheduled in order to receive holiday pay.
3. The holiday begins at 11:00 pm on the eve of the holiday and concludes at 11: pm on the night of the holiday.
4. Compensation for the holiday will be calculated up to eight (8) hours at the employee's base rate of pay.
5. Those employees working on Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's will receive an extra four (4) hours of pay at their base rate of pay.
6. Part time employees who are not eligible must work the holiday in order to receive compensation for that day.

  
Commissioner, Chair

Nov. 15, 2005  
Current Date

  
Commissioner, Vice Chair

November 15, 2005  
Effective Date

  
Commissioner, Clerk

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT**

### **COUNTY LAND MANAGEMENT**

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> UNH Cooperative Extension hosted a videoconference through PicTel pertaining to county land management that several counties participated in with reports given by Commission Gabler of Grafton and Commissioner Sorensen from Carroll County. It was well informed and learned a lot about what was going on in NH. We are clearly on the mark as far as our land management – we have a land management committee chaired by commissioner Jarvis and Facility Director part of the good. Comm. Jarvis noted both Federal and County land discussed, that there was a lot of discussion about retaining land for future, found the issue very interesting and impressed by the format they used – PicTel, and suggested we use this in other avenues.

### **SIDE NOTE – LAND MANAGEMENT**

Commissioner Clarke noticed the brush hogging had not been done as of two weeks ago. He also noted there were trees down on the Marshall Pond access road. The County Manager noted he would check on both issues with the Facilities Director.

### **VIDEO CONFERENCING WORK**

Mr. Gil de Rubio noted they have run lines from UNH Cooperative Extension to the Superior Court for the judges to begin videoconference for arraignments, and paid for this out of County funds to show a proactive step. The state would now have to come up with money for equipment. He pointed out the current equipment at the UNH Cooperative Extension is old and would cost \$21,000 to replace and give it more of a sensor type set up. The new equipment would run about \$8,000 and provides more of a secure type of set up for arraignments. If this arrangement is successful, he can foresee the DOC doing the same in the future.

### **LSR – ELIMINATING COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Gil de Rubio met with Senator Burling in Concord, along with Julie Clough from Grafton County and Jim Monahan pertaining to an LSR Senator Burling wants to draft to scrutinize and possibly eliminate County government. The main concern were inefficiencies of county and state functions, i.e. penal system, which Senator Burling feels, should be at the state level. It was a good meeting, a lot of issues placed on the table including funding mechanisms. Mr. Gil de Rubio briefed the Board of Commissioners on the meeting this morning. Mr. Monahan will be giving the Senator a draft bill by the end of this week. Burling's intention is to formulate a commission to review state and county government over a four year period and to come back with recommendations. Burling's hope is for county officials, state senators to sit on the commission. Mr. Gil de Rubio emailed Cathy Stacey, President of the NHAC and in his message recommended that Stacey bring this to the LCR for the NHAC.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

Commissioner Nelson indicated he attended the Newport Chamber of Commerce Breakfast where Commissioners Office staff and the County Manager were honored for their achievements, awards received at the NHAC conference. He also attended a Community Alliance meeting with Councilor Ray Burton and Lake Sunapee Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission; where they gave a heads up about Mr. Burton's encouragement to apply for a transportation grant to purchase and run a bus from Claremont, to Newport, to Croydon, to Grantham and up to

Dartmouth Hitchcock and VA. Cost about \$700,000. Grant is submitted, and hearings coming this winter – they are working with Senators.

Commissioner Clarke noted Mr. Monahan sent an e-mail around this morning allowing ease in understanding the changes in HB638.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rep. Converse voiced concerns about the extra (older) pieces of medical equipment being donated to 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries and wondered what would become of the hospital beds that were being discarded as new beds took their place. He request that the local area receive first choice on the equipment. Comm. Jarvis concurred the information should be sent out to the community.

- The County Manager noted the equipment has been sitting around many years and they were fortunate to find a company that would put it to good use. Mr. Gil de Rubio requested Rep. Converse to refer those interested in the equipment to the Facilities Director Greg Chanis. He noted they could pay to put an ad in the paper. Comm. Nelson concurred an ad would be a good idea and that he would give Tanya Wilkie at the Newport Health Facilities a heads up to contact Mr. Chanis. Rep. Converse noted he is not for advertising in newspapers, but thought that the County should know of the home health care facilities they could send notice to. General discussion commenced. County Manager and Commissioner Clarke noted the issue would be looked into. Mr. Marshall indicated there were a couple floors on Sanders filled with old equipment, that the equipment being replaced was old crank beds. He noted they would be receiving the new electric beds Nov 28<sup>th</sup>

Rep. Converse requested an update on the maple syrup equipment that Commissioner Nelson spoke about at a previous meeting.

- Commissioner Nelson noted this was a collection given to the NH Maple Producers Association and that he would contact Peter Thompson to check on the status.

Rep. Converse noted he heard through his wife that staffing was slim on weekends. He noted she and several of her friends are being asked to work weekends, that they have complaints about this lack of staffing but feel they are unable to bring this to the attention of management.

- Mr. Gil de Rubio pointed out he had met with staff and union officials to discuss equitable scheduling policies to take the politics out of staffing and scheduling. The County Manager requested complaints about management to be done face-to-face, or to direct to Commissioners. He noted the facility is running 200% better due to management under Heidi Smith and Courtney Marshall.

**3:26 A motion was made by Commissioners Nelson to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ethel Jarvis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

*Ethel Jarvis, Clerk  
Board of Commissioners  
EJ/s.j-c.*